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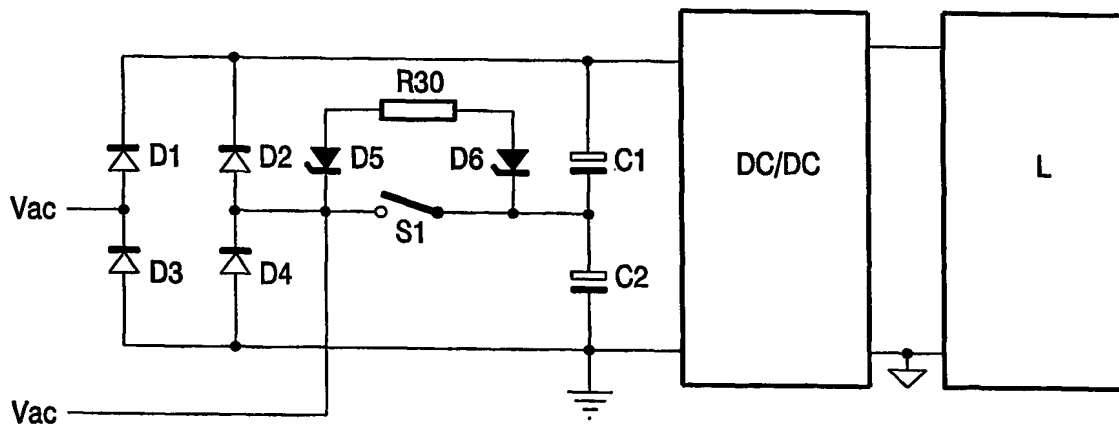
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(54) Title: **POWER CONVERTER**



(57) Abstract: A power converter comprising: a rectifier arrangement (D1-D4) having inputs coupled to AC power supply terminals; a pair of series-connected capacitors (C1, C2) coupled across output terminals of the rectifier arrangement; a switch (S1) coupled between one of said AC power supply terminals and a midpoint of the pair of series-connected capacitors, the switch being open if a first AC voltage is applied to the AC power terminals, and the switch being closed if a second AC voltage is applied to the AC power terminals, the first AC voltage exceeding the second AC voltage; and an overvoltage protection circuit (D5, R30, D6) coupled between at least one of the inputs of the rectifier arrangement and the midpoint of the pair of series-connected capacitors.

WO 2005/008868 A1



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